

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A clamp/alignment mechanism comprising:
a turntable on which a recording medium is mounted, the
5 turntable being rotated by a rotation driving device;
a holding device for holding the recording medium mounted
on the turntable;
an aligning device for aligning the recording medium
mounted on the turntable; and
10 a driving device for driving both the holding device and
the alignment device,
wherein the driving device is configured to drive the
aligning device in an aligning direction along which the recording
medium is subjected to alignment thereof, in cases where the
15 holding device is driven in a holding direction in which the
recording medium is to be held.
2. The clamp/alignment mechanism according to claim 1,
wherein the holding device is configured to locate at a retreat
20 position which disables the holding device for holding the
recording medium and the aligning device is configured to locate
at a retreat position which disables the aligning device for
aligning the recording medium, in cases where the recording medium
is mounted onto the turntable.
- 25 3. The clamp/alignment mechanism according to claim 1,
wherein the aligning device is made up of an elastic member having
both ends, one end of which being fixedly engaged with the turntable,
and the driving device is configured to push the other end of
30 the elastic member in an alignment-releasing direction along
which the recording medium is subjected to release from an aligned
state.

4. The clamp/alignment mechanism according to claim 3, wherein the driving device has a movable member slidable in a direction perpendicular to a plane of the turntable on which the recording medium is mounted, the movable member being placed to push the other end of the elastic member in the alignment-releasing direction of the recording medium, in cases where the movable member is made to slide in a direction away from the plane of the turntable.

10 5. The clamp/alignment mechanism according to claim 4, wherein the holding device is made up of a plurality of chuck claws mounted rotatably on the turntable, wherein the movable member is placed to push the plurality of chuck claws in the hold-releasing direction of the recording medium, in cases where the movable member is made to slide in the direction away from the plane of the turntable.

15 6. The clamp/alignment mechanism according to claim 1, wherein the driving device includes a limiting device for limiting the holding device from being moved in the holding direction of the recording medium, in cases where the holding device is driven in a hold-releasing direction in which the recording medium is to be released from a held state.

20 25 7. The clamp/alignment mechanism according to claim 6, wherein the holding device is made up of a plurality of chuck claws mounted rotatably on the turntable, the driving device has a movable member slidable in a direction perpendicular to a plane of the turntable on which the recording medium is mounted, and the limiting device is configured to push the plurality of chuck claws in the hold-releasing direction of the recording medium, in cases where the movable member is made to slide in

a direction away from the plane of the turntable.

8. A clamp/alignment mechanism comprising:

5 a turntable on which a recording medium is mounted, the turntable being rotated by a rotation driving device;

a holding device for holding the recording medium mounted on the turntable;

10 an aligning device for aligning the recording medium mounted on the turntable; and

15 a driving device for driving both the holding device and the alignment device,

wherein the driving device is configured to drive the aligning device in an alignment-releasing direction along which the recording medium is subjected to release from an aligned state thereof, in cases where the holding device is driven in a hold-releasing direction in which the recording medium is to be released from a held state thereof.

9. The clamp/alignment mechanism according to claim 8,

20 wherein the holding device is configured to locate at a retreat position which disables the holding device for holding the recording medium and the aligning device is configured to locate at a retreat position which disables the aligning device for aligning the recording medium, in cases where the recording medium is mounted onto the turntable.

10. The clamp/alignment mechanism according to claim 8,

25 wherein the aligning device is made up of an elastic member having both ends, one end of which being fixedly engaged with the turntable, and the driving device is configured to push the other end of the elastic member in the alignment-releasing direction of the recording medium.

11. The clamp/alignment mechanism according to claim 10, wherein the driving device has a movable member slidable in a direction perpendicular to a plane of the turntable on which the recording medium is mounted, the movable member being placed to push the other end of the elastic member in the alignment-releasing direction of the recording medium, in cases where the movable member is made to slide in a direction away from the plane of the turntable.

10 12. The clamp/alignment mechanism according to claim 11, wherein the holding device is made up of a plurality of chuck claws mounted rotatably on the turntable, wherein the movable member is placed to push the plurality of chuck claws in the hold-releasing direction of the recording medium, in cases where the movable member is made to slide in the direction away from the plane of the turntable.

15 13. The clamp/alignment mechanism according to claim 8, wherein the driving device includes a limiting device for limiting the holding device from being moved in the holding direction of the recording medium, in cases where the holding device is driven in the alignment-releasing direction of the recording medium.

20 25 14. The clamp/alignment mechanism according to claim 13, wherein the holding device is made up of a plurality of chuck claws mounted rotatably on the turntable, the driving device has a movable member slidable in a direction perpendicular to a plane of the turntable on which the recording medium is mounted, and the limiting device is configured to push the plurality of chuck claws in the hold-releasing direction of the recording medium, in cases where the movable member is made to slide in

a direction away from the plane of the turntable.

15. An information reproducing mechanism comprising a clamp/alignment mechanism according to claim 1.

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16. An information reproducing mechanism comprising a clamp/alignment mechanism according to claim 8.

17. An information recording mechanism comprising a 10 clamp/alignment mechanism according to claim 1.

18. An information recording mechanism comprising a clamp/alignment mechanism according to claim 8.

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